

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLX

September 2009

Number 9



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: September 10, 2009 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net

19.5 h



Got Tower?

Next Meeting

Topic: I Love My Neighbors, so, Why do They Hate Me?

Speaker: ARRL Volunter Counsel Jonathan Kramer, Esq W6JKL

2009 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	W6GRK	Gary Kushe	562-5391

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Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
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Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535
Past President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogle" Panger	263-4439

2009 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
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Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
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Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
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WAMO	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



The ARCEC has been very busy these past few months. Take a look at the July and August Calendars and you will see what I mean. Thank you to each and every club member who contributed and helped make it all happen! September, actually the entire rest of the year, is booked with activities and FUN events for all members to participate in. Volunteers are always needed; just sign up and come out and join us. The more club members who come out to events, the more FUN we have. Even if you can't stay long, stop by and say "HI" as you are always welcome.

73

Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President



2010 ARRL Southwestern Division

Amateur Radio Convention

September 17, 18 & 19, 2010

San Diego, California

Four Points, By Sheraton Hotel

San Diego

For up to date information about the Convention, please visit us at the website: www.sandarc.org/

See you at the Convention!

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
13 August 2009



The General Membership Meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the Club President Paul, KC6QLS at 1900hrs. After the Pledge of Allegiance, visitors were welcomed.

SECRETARY Mike, N6OPH read the Minutes of the July General Membership Meeting as the Counterpoise has not yet been distributed. The Minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER, Gary, W6GRK read the Treasurer's Report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

MEMBERSHIP Report was given by Ann, KC6TBG. She introduced the new members. Total membership is 243. At tonight's meeting there were 60 in attendance with 7 visitors.

Rich, N6NKJ was awarded his DXCC by Pat, WA6MHZ.

HEALTH and Welfare Chairman Floyd had no report.

PRESIDENT Rios, KC6QLS reported on the Club Picnic on 25 July. There were 50 attendees. The officials at the park were concerned about the Club's Tower. The next picnic will be 12 September. 10 October will be another Fire House Open House.

VICE PRESIDENT Steve, KO4QT introduced this evening's speaker, Mike, N6OPH. He gave his presentation about the recently attended NCVEC meeting in Gettysburg, PA in July. He also spoke for a few minutes concerning the music that was played during the second day of the battle of Gettysburg. He played a recording of the tunes associated with the battle on period instruments. He gave some depth to an otherwise historical oddity of the Civil War.

After the break, Vice President Steve, KO4QT announced the final Field Day results. We had 21 CW contacts, 47 digital contacts and 1195 phone contacts for a total of 1263. The next picnic is 12 September at Lindo Lake Park. This will be a pot luck affair. The Tower Trailer will also be at the picnic. There will be a drawing for some small prizes at the picnic. Some of the prizes would be "rescue tape" and a seven

function multi-meter. The club reflector is on Yahoo Groups and can be accessed on the club website. Last Saturday was the Southeast Community Fair at which eight club members were present for that event. There will be two Technician Classes at the Horizon Fellowship in Clairemont on 22 and 29 August. VE testing will occur after the classes. On 26 September there will be a 50K Run sponsored by CERT. ARCEC has been asked by the Senior Olympics to provide communications on 30 August during the opening ceremonies and 16K Run.

SANDARC: Mike, N6OPH gave the report on the last month's Council Meeting. The LOC fund was liquidated and the proceeds were given to the DX Club. Mike reported to SANDARC on the activities of the NCVEC meeting in Gettysburg PA.

The Extra Theory Class will start on 8 September at the rear building on the church property. The September 10 meeting will have a presentation by John Kramer on "I love my neighbors so why do they hate me?" This will be about antenna issues. A nominations committee will be selected in October. Ham of the Year will be nominated at the November meeting and selected at the December annual meeting.

There being no further business before the General Membership the meeting was adjourned at 2100hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

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From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



Our Club website is back up and running after being down briefly to move the website to a new server. Please visit the website at www.wa6bgs.org

The Club Reflector continues to be a valuable source of Club information. You can register for the Reflector at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

For preparing and presenting the program at our July Club Meeting, I'd like to thank Gary W6GRK for putting together the Field Day Slide Show for us to see. What a chore that must have been, having to select from close to 450 pictures and have to limit the show to only 30 minutes. I also want to thank Bill N9QO and Martin N4MDM for talking to us about the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) and for bringing the Salvation Army "Canteen" Van for us to see.

Our August Meeting...about a week before our Meeting, our scheduled speaker let me know he had to be out of town on business and wouldn't be back in time to give his presentation on the 900MHz Amateur Band. Mike N6OPH, having just returned from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), stepped up and put together a really interesting and informative presentation about the Conference for us.

The past few months have kept us really busy and I thank all of you who have participated in our many events. It's not time to sit back and relax for the winter yet though. We're going to need your help with a few more upcoming events. Hopefully we'll have Tom N6JOJ's tower and antennas up so he'll be able to operate HF from his brand new "shack" by the 1st of September. We are planning a nut and bolt replacing party on the trailer. We have an antenna party scheduled for September 3rd at John WA6L's house. We have our Club's second Picnic of the year on September 12th, and we're going to help provide



Continued on Page 14

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Axel	KI6RRN	Donut Net

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 p.m. local time 7:45 "Early Checkins"
This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken.

Donut Net:

Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Bring your Donuts. GOT MILK?

Wide Open Ham Net:

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Frito's Corn Chip Net:

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. on 28.435 Mhz USB

Nets held on Club's WA6BGS Repeaters System
RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL
RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL
RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL
Don't miss it. All members welcome.

WAMO means Worked All Members Only.
The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Calendar of Events Septmeber 2009

Sept.	1:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Sept.	5:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Sept.	5:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Sept.	7:	Labor Day
Sept.	8:	Extra Class Starts!
Sept.	10:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Sept.	12:	Lindo Lake Club Party #2
Sept.	18:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Sept.	26:	Noble Canyon 50 K Run
Sept.	26:	Wildland Fire Safty Training

Upcoming Event Dates

Oct.	10:	El Cajon Fire Station #6 Open House
Oct.	10:	Amateur Radio Appriciation Day 2009
Oct.	24:	Borrego Springs Parade
Nov.	22:	Mother Goose Parade

ARCEC Membership Form

Please print clearly, complete all info and return to Membership Chair with your payment:

- ☐ Individual Membership \$18.00 ☐ Family Membership \$30.00
☐ Counterpoise by MAIL add \$18.00 ☐ Counterpoise by Email or Website FREE

Name: _____ Class of License: _____

Other Family Members and Calls: _____

Address: _____

Call: _____ WAMO #: _____ Birthday: _____

Phone #: _____ Email address: _____

Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member

*If you are a returning member, you will keep your original WAMO # _____

Check One: I give my permission to publish my info on the Club Roster coming out ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, state exactly what information you do not want published: _____

Check all the apply: ARRL Member ARES Member Other _____

Would you like to be in the Counterpoise Spotlight? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to be a member of The East County Response Team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail with payment to: Membership Chair, ARCEC, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

***To be eligible for the drawing, must be postmarked no later than December 1 of the year.*

REV 9-2-2009



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The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthday

September	7	KI6PKX	Hollis	Barber
September	7	KF6KE	Richard	West
September	8	AE6CQ	Michael	Martak
September	9	KF6OXP	Fred	Myers
September	12	N6JOJ	Tom	Myrick
September	12	KC6EKU	Dan	Heck
September	12	N6QU	Martin	Reid
September	15	KB6EPQ	Charles	Barstow
September	20	N6NKJ	Rich	Beisigl
September	22	W6REY	Rey	Armstrong



Word Search

C O M M U N I T Y X L H Y S U S Y X
R U W J L S D Y W S F A I R N E S S R
A M P L I F I E R D R W D F L W T R R
X W S A N N E T N A B D F J R O W O
H Y L H D X H U D H Y J L D B W D B
E C N A R E L O T Z R L A H Z E U H
L A J W S V Z L R U V B G S B R J G I
P M X R D B A W Q X I P B Y R X I
F O Z D J E Q B Q S E Y O W L Q R E
U U L V T H R Y S N W Q L Q B V B N
L F H S S Z Q T L U S U E R J W U H
U L R E W J H L J D V Y R V X Q S Z
R A V L B G A V H W E X V D H Y V R
Y G X U I D Y B D V R S U R L U D Y
S E L R E C A L C I T R A N T X G Z
U R Y K L W D H N O I T A C O L O D
D H R U D Y H S D H C Y W Z Y Q L S
N O I T A C U D E D A L D U S R Z H
W H S Y H J W Z L J L U Y J L M J W

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMPLIFIER | <input type="checkbox"/> NEIGHBORS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNAS | <input type="checkbox"/> QRM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAMOUFLAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> RECALCITRANT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY | <input type="checkbox"/> RIGHTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> RULES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIRNESS | <input type="checkbox"/> STEALTH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLAGPOLE | <input type="checkbox"/> TOLERANCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HELPFUL | <input type="checkbox"/> TOWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> VERTICAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOG | <input type="checkbox"/> WORKED ALL NEIGHORS |

Brain Thinkers

18 = I. in a C. 18 Inches in a Cubit
30 = D. in J. 30 Days in June
180 = D. to R. D. 180 Degrees to Reverse Direction

----- This Months -----

3 = S. and Y.re O.

4 = M. in a S.

57 = H. V.



Last Months Word Search

B V F Z I O H S W Z P K T Z Y I
W E T X S Y U C E G D O L P S W
H I A P W V F T Y L C W F A X T
U O O M L O R J D R T H U N T Z
G H E S S W H I J T O D O W D C
S W D Y G Y U W Z C W P V V I Y
F Y D O O F R L F E E D L I N E
I U W P D U P X P W R R W R T R
Z H S J T R L R S R J P L S Y T
R A D I O S O R J R I C J F L I
X N Y W H P E F D T S E T N O C
D N F V C R J U L E U D O L T A
I E U I U H Y C P S W B S C P L
V T Z B D H W Z J T U Y E V U J
U N M S V X I T H G A Y Q W V
H A H P L A E N I N Z X D Q L S
H R O T A R E N E S F O V H J X

ASK AN ELMER

This month's question:

What did I learn about Field Day and why should I help out with Club Activities?

Well, first off, I learned that Field Day is one heck of an operation that was attended by a whole bunch of folks (well over 100 on Saturday alone)!

I learned that if our Field Day set-up was for an actual emergency/disaster, our Club and Members were prepared! The radio's, antenna's, towers, generator, and all of the accessory items we used (some borrowed from Club Members and some belonging to the Club), would have provided us with reliable communications to pass logistical traffic locally or even nationally to help government and relief agencies coordinate incoming Food and Construction Equipment to re-supply and rebuild our infrastructure.

I learned how to put together and install a variety of antennas. I learned how to set up our Club's military surplus "AB-577 Antenna Launchers" (portable antenna Towers). I learned how to set up HF/VHF/UHF radio stations, i.e. power supplies, radios, meters, tuners. I learned that we CAN operate both voice and digital stations from the same site, at the same time, without interfering with each other. I learned how to key the microphone and call "CQ Field Day, this is WA6BGS" as well as to exchange information about our station with other stations operating in the Field Day contest. I learned how to enter contact information into the computer using N3FJP logging software. I learned how to find a hidden transmitter. I learned how to prepare and transmit or receive and deliver messages in "National Traffic System" (NTS) format. I learned by talking to Members of our Club, that a wealth of knowledge and information exists in their internal memory databases, and if I ask questions, they're more than happy to provide answers. I learned that Field Day meals are "killer" good and I never walked away hungry!

I learned that there are a lot of HAMS in our Club that happily worked together to make sure everything was set up "just right". I learned that doing things other than HAM Radio, like playing Chess, is OK. I learned that I never want to miss out on future Field Day events and that I need to make reservations for lodging at the Camp way in advance!

I also learned that an awful lot of planning must go on to pull off a large scale event like Field Day. Planning stuff like who's helping set equipment up before Field Day and who's helping to tear down after Field Day, where should towers and antenna's be set up (and who's providing them), where do we position rigs for the various bands they're assigned to operate on, how many people are going to be there and how much food needs to be purchased and on and on.

What? You said YOU didn't learn ANY of these things? That leads us to the second part of our question:

"Why should I help out with Club Activities?"

The answer to this is simple: the more you do, the more you learn! The more you learn, the more you can teach!

Our Club consists of over 230 Members and we have many events on the Calendar this year. If more of our Members were able to help out with some of these activities, it would be greatly appreciated. Some of our Events are:

Foot Races/Air show - you'll become more skilled in your radio operation techniques as well as your ability to operate from remote locations using the antennas and portable power sources you've selected or designed.



Continued Page 11

**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner

Due to technical difficulties (my computer died) and for some unforeseen time warp, the Counterpoise is extremely late. The Computer has been rebuilt and 85% of the data was retrieved from the dark side of the Bit Bucket. The Counterpoise data took the longest to retrieve due that was the part most of that data was stored at when the hard drive crashed.

I hope you enjoy this issue of The Counterpoise, which includes Field Day photos and some interesting club history.

**73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS
Editor**

Public Relations

"Is your tummy gnawing at your backbone?" is the question those of us who manned the SANDARC Booth at the San Diego Fair (still the Del Mar Fair to a lot of us) will not soon forget. We had a lot of FUN sharing Amateur Radio with fairgoers and talking to Hams who stopped by to visit. A few folks we met at the fair came up to our Field Day Site on Mt. Laguna to see first hand what Amateur Radio Operators do. Thank you to all ARCEC Members who volunteered at the SANDARC Booth.

Ann and I can say from our experience that the SANDARC Booth at the fair is, and has been, an effective way to introduce folks to Amateur Radio. In fact, it was Nick Callas, K6DBJ SK, known to many as "Dirty Blue Jeans", who talked to us at the fair many years ago. He showed us CW and how "easy" it was and then invited us to take his class at the Convair Club. We took his class, got our Novice Ticket, and the first club we joined was Convair. We later joined the ARCEC and became more active in Amateur Radio. As volunteers at the fair, we may not always see a response to our efforts. While the spark of interest may take a while to ignite due to our busy lives and schedules, eventually those who are interested do get into Amateur Radio, and I believe the San Diego Fair is a great way to introduce others to our great hobby and service. Thanks to all who have dedicated their time and talents to the SANDARC Booth at the fair over the years.

73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS Public Relations

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

See Club's Calendar on Page 4

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else."

- Erma Bombeck

JOKE

What do you call a fish with no eyes?

A fsh

Lisie KI6EEK

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



Boat Anchor Field Day!

By WA6MHZ

The Heathkit twins SB-301 & SB-401 were brought up to Field Day as promised, along with a SB-101 transceiver as a backup. I hooked up everything early to make sure it was ready to run at the 11AM start, but there seemed to be something wrong with the 401. It would only put out about 70W and then the output power would slowly drop. The 101 put out a nice 125W. But when the Generator was enabled at FD start, the 401 suddenly worked fine again. It seems the Shore Power was a very low line voltage and the 401 was dropping out.

But, as I began to call my first CQ FD, there was a terrible screeching in the headphones. WHY? Don't know and haven't figured it out to this day. Not an RF feedback problem, but for some reason the 301 wasn't being shut off.

SO I switched over to the SB-101 which worked just fine. But 20M was in terrible condition at that time and I only made a few contacts over the next 3 hours. No way I have any control over band conditions. But, as luck would have it, when the boat anchors were retired, 20 promptly opened up and the ops running the new equipment had plenty of stations to work.

Don't know what I can bring next year, but I would like to score a Hallicrafters SR-400 or such. Still need backup radios as the best laid plans of Mice and Men.....

QUICK RESTORATION

I was at work and digging through an old box of junk donated to the Museum, and found 2 J-38 Morse Code keys from World War 2. Both were all rusted and corroded up, thick with dirt and generally wasted. I decided to refurbish one just to show the difference.

First the Key was taken completely apart, and all parts carefully stowed so they wouldn't be lost. The bakelite base was shined up with Novus #2, my favorite compound. Next the key base was buffed with a Dremel tool and a mini wire wheel. All bits of rust and corrosion were removed. There were a lot of brass parts, deeply pitted and grungy, so those were sanded down with fine sandpaper and later buffed to a high gloss with the Dremel wire brush. The shine now like they are gold!

Everything was carefully re-assembled and aligned. The difference is shocking! Over time, it will tarnish again, but at least now, it looks as new as it did in 1942.

MY FIRST RECEIVER

Back in 1968, I found a National NC-88 and a Heathkit DX-40 in local radio store in the Western Chicago suburbs. I was about 16 or so. The DX-40 was promptly blown up (no one told me not to peak the transmitter for maximum meter reading! What is DIPPING the plate??) But the NC-88 provided countless hours of wonderful Broadcast band and Shortwave listening. I then became a Ham, getting my Novice.

I found a NC-88 on Ebay some time ago, but it arrived with the knobs all smashed up, and I was generally dissatisfied how it looked. So I tried again.

This time, I nailed a NC-88 in fairly good electrical condition, with good knobs (except one) but with a very rusted up and scratched cabinet.

I just happened to have a half can of Spray paint left over from last months National SW-54, and lessons learned about how to properly repaint it and letter it were incorporated into this job. What transpired was the addition of one of the most Beautiful Radios in the Museum. Not only does it look brand new, it works as well as it looks. The NC-88 was a miserable radio for Ham Band operation, but a great SWL radio. Now, this one can be enjoyed again.

Thanks to all the wonderful people up at Field Day who helped out and made it a smashing success. Looking forward to next year! More Boat Anchors NEXT year!

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
Curator
Crest Radio Museum



Continued Page 12

Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

"Amateur Radio's Beloved 'Enforcer' Re-considering Retirement"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 24 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

A development within the FCC has caught the Ham Radio hobby by surprise and created a swirling controversy within the Amateur contest community. Amateur Radio Division Enforcement Chief Rollie Hollingsworth K4XYZ has announced he has re-considered his earlier announced decision of retirement. The decision, reportedly the result of a developing controversy within the FCC over a popular youth-oriented Amateur Radio contest - "Kid's Day," was leaked to the Amateur community as controversy grew within the Enforcement Bureau over FCC rulings involving the popular contest.

The controversy involves the departure of Hollingsworth and his new replacement at FCC. According to anonymous ARRL staffers, the controversy centered on concerns that FCC Enforcement Bureau rulings involving the "Kids Day" contest were issued by what was described as "inexperienced" FCC Enforcement Bureau staff. The controversy began innocently enough with the 2008 contest, held on the weekend of October 18. The contest, sponsored by the Boring Contest Club, is intended to attract youth to Amateur Radio contests. Contest participants exchange name, age, location, and favorite color. The target group for the contest, youth ages 7 – 15, are attracted by the lure of high technology and the competitive spirit of a weekend on-air contest. "Kids Day" contest operators are invited to operate as guests at stations belonging in

to some of North America's best Ham testers, including several world-class stations.

On the day of the contest, the atmosphere is light-hearted, with contest participants exchanging favorite colors and vying for the greatest number of contracts. According to an anonymous source at the League, the problem began innocently enough with a favorite of today's youth - soft drinks. Many of the young operators in the contest were operating full legal limit power, with world-class antenna arrays, on some of the most cherished HF real estate in North American Amateur Radio. Many of the young operators are equipped with headsets and utilizing VOX (voice operated relay). Shortly after the start of the contest, as many contest participants began consuming soft drinks, trouble began with the appearance of unidentified belching on the U.S. 20 meter phone band. As the contest progressed, the belching continued, ringing out across the Amateur bands. The belches were, according to FCC staff "...not being identified in a manner consistent with requirements stipulated in Part 97."

FCC high frequency monitoring sites in Delano, California and Daytona Beach, Florida began logging what an FCC spokesman referred to as "unidentified audio events" across numerous Amateur frequencies. The unidentified transmissions began to attract the attention of FCC engineers. Additional monitoring sites were quickly brought on-line in an attempt to identify the source of the unidentified belching. It was at this point that Enforcement Bureau actions set in place a series of events, eventually triggering regulatory action from FCC staff.

Unidentified FCC staff members, agreeing to speak off the record, report that in addition to concern over unidentified belching, the incidents triggered a review of potential violations of contest rules. The unprecedented review of Amateur contest rules by FCC staff determined that contest rules require participants to exchange a favorite color. Once selected, this color must be identified

Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

as “*my favorite*” in the contact exchange with other operators in the contest. Hearing contest participants identify “unusual” or “unconventional” color selections, and documenting contest participants “changing color selections mid-contest”, FCC Amateur Division Enforcement staff swung into action. According to unidentified sources at ARRL, FCC monitoring stations began recording and documenting what the FCC describes as “unconventional color selections”, and began preparing “Notice of Violation” notification to certain contest participants.

FCC staff reports that color selections among contest participants, particularly the very young, included unusual colors such as “geeen”, “rainbow”, or “gold”. Among the newly minted Enforcement Bureau staff, the unusual color choices were just another enforcement issue. To Hollingsworth, the “Kids Day” contest issues were at the very least “uncharted waters” for the FCC and not specifically addressed in Part 97.

exclusive remarks to “*Chicken Noodle Soup*”, Hollingsworth comments, “This Ham contest, which has gone slightly awry, represents a political minefield for the Bureau. Further, based on the ‘Kids Day’ experience, it’s clear that adult supervision is needed at FCC offices in Gettysburg. Work remains to be done and I’m returning to do it.”

A somber and resolute Hollingsworth adds “...as far as any ‘notice of violations’ are concerned...the jury’s out,” implying Hollingsworth and the FCC will be reviewing the whole matter in response to the uproar within the Ham Radio community.

“*Chicken Noodle Soup*” readers are advised to watch future issues for word on more developments involving Hollingsworth and the “Kids Day” contest. For additional information on Kid’s Day contest, “*Chicken Noodle Soup*” readers are invited to visit the ARRL website www.ARRL.org and type in search words “*Kids Day*”. Young Ham readers are cautioned that Ham Radio contesting can be highly addictive and enjoyable. **Morris AZ6CW**

Ask an Elmer Continued

VIP Red Flag Patrols – not only will you be helping the Community by watching out for fire dangers, you’ll also gain operating skills in varied terrain where you may find that hills, antenna gain and increased RF power output make the difference in whether you can “get your message through”, or not.

Fair, Kids Best, Community Fairs, Open House, Fall Festival – Our Club is very pro-active when it comes to getting the word out about Amateur Radio. We participate in activities like these so we can inform the public about what Amateur Radio is, what our Communication abilities are, and how we can use these abilities to support our Communities in the event of a disaster. You can help at these events by passing your Amateur Radio experiences on to others.

Parades – whether you’re helping to build or riding on our Club’s float for the “Mother Goose Parade”, driving your vehicle in the “Borrego Springs Parade”, or helping to provide Communication for the “Crest 4th of July Parade”, you are helping to get the word out to the public about Amateur Radio.

Antenna Parties – what better way to learn how to set up and tear down antennas than to do it! Whether it be to insure our Club’s antennas and tower trailer are in tip-top shape for our next deployment, one of our Club Members needs to take antennas and towers down, or a new antenna installation is needed to get Members of our Club on the air, we’re here to help! As you can imagine, this is labor intensive and YOUR help would make the process much easier. If you can’t lift or climb, no problem. You can always help out by loosening guys, passing tools up the tower, rolling up coax, and the list goes on.

OK, you say that you know how to do all this, so you don’t need to attend these events to learn? All the more reason you should be there! Pass your skills on to others who are eager to learn about Amateur Radio from you so that our great hobby and service can continue from generation to generation.

Next month’s question is, “Vertical vs. Yagi antenna, which is better?”

73, Elmer A. Ham

Crest Museum Continued



From the Desk of Monica Zech PIO City of El Cajon

A Special 9/11 Musical Tribute In El Cajon

This will be the 8th Anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11! To remember those who lost their lives, you're invited to a special event called **Secrets In The Sand** on Friday, September 11th. It's a musical tribute to the heroes of 9/11 at 7:00 p.m. at the East County Performing Arts Center, located at 210 E. Main Street. Ticket prices are \$15 for general admission, \$13 for active military. Visit www.secretsinthesand.com for more information or to purchase your tickets online.

In October - El Cajon Fire's Annual Safety & Career Expo

Join us for a day of great family fun and safety at the El Cajon Fire Safety & Career Expo to be held on Saturday, October 10th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at El Cajon Fire Station 6, located at 100 E. Lexington Avenue. Enjoy the Kid's Fun-Safety Zone! Safety helmets will be given away - while supplies last. Child I.D.'s will be available as well as car seat safety information. Meet firefighters and law enforcement personnel, see their emergency vehicles and displays and gather career information. Various safety organizations will be on hand, including the El Cajon Amateur Radio Club, with displays and handouts. For more information visit www.elcajonfire.com or call (619) 441-1737.

For what's happening in the City of El Cajon, such as special projects and services, visit our City website at www.ci.el-cajon.ca.us - and stay informed. For Public Safety Center updates, please call (619) 441-5524.



Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



July 2009 Membership Report:

Returning Members:

WAMO # 1398 Sam Kretzschmar	W6GAK
WAMO # 1570 Ed Redman	WA6LNF

New Members:

WAMO # 1796 Mike Todd	K6WD
WAMO # 1797 Cheryl Matterson	No Call
WAMO # 1798 Margaret	
WAMO # 1799 Heather	No Call
WAMO # 1800 Margaret Bourdette	KI6CTE
WAMO # 1801 Jerry Madsen	KI6PLH
WAMO # 1802 Lynne Madsen	KI6PLG
WAMO # 1803 David White	KI6ZLB

August 2009 Membership Report:

Returning Members:

WAMO # 1354 Bill Ryan	W6BJR
WAMO # 1355 Carol Ryan	KE6PHD

New Members:

WAMO # 1804 Nick Prodanovich	AD6UK
WAMO # 1805 Gary Prodanovich	WA6BNG
WAMO # 1806 Bryce Shorette	KJ6AWT
WAMO # 1807 Lyle Boelter	KG6WOB
WAMO # 1808 Sandra Boelter	KI6JYC
WAMO # 1809 Bill Howe	KC6TXN
WAMO # 1810 Jesse Ryan	N6BBR
WAMO # 1811 Bill Randall	KI6ZYN

Congratulations to all who have upgraded your license!

If you have upgraded your license within the past year, please contact me at kc6tbg@cox.net or see me at the meeting so that I can update your information on the ARCEC Roster.

All Members are welcome to participate on all ARCEC weekly Nets. The WAMO Net is an opportunity to meet new members, collect WAMO's and practice your communication skills. Please join us. For more information on the dates and times, see page 4 of this Newsletter.

The 2009 ARCEC Roster is for club use only. However, please do not use this club roster to contact club members at the telephone numbers and addresses listed on the roster for the purpose of working a WAMO. The Rules for working WAMO are listed on the website and must be followed in order to receive WAMO Certificates. Also, copies of the WAMO Rules are available at club meetings.

73, Ann, KC6TBG

Individual Dues Membership:

\$18.00 per year (\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

***plus \$18.00 for the following year**

Family Dues Membership:

\$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$ 10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

***plus \$30.00 for the following year**

Ann, KC6TBG
Membership Chair



Continued on Page 18

From The Vice-President Continued

communications for the "Noble Canyon 50K Run" on Saturday September 26th. Check the Calendar on our Club website for detailed event and volunteer information.

Speaking of our Picnic, it will be from about 9:00am to 2:00pm on September 12th at Lindo Lake County Park in Lakeside in the same place as our July 25th Picnic. Live musical entertainment will be provided from 11:30-12:15 by Polo Navarro and from 12:15-1:00 by Jennette KF6GMD. Music volume will be kept to a level that will allow eyeball QSO's during lunch as well. The Club will provide leftover steaks, hamburgers and hot dogs from Field Day as well as buns, condiments, soft drinks, water, paper plates/bowls and plastic flatware. What should you bring?? It's a Pot Luck, so bring your favorite Side Dish, Salad, Desert or Chips. Also, don't forget to bring chairs. We'll have our Club's 100' Tower Trailer set up early with VHF and HF antennas on top and HF and VHF rigs for you to operate. Our Club Trustee will be there, and we'll be using the Club's Call Sign "WA6BGS". This means, regardless of your license class, you'll be able to get on the air even on HF.

Our next Club meeting will be on the 10th of September and the speaker for our Program will be ARRL Volunteer Counsel, Jonathan Kramer, Esquire, W6JLK who has been appointed by the ARRL as "Volunteer Counsel" on Amateur Radio issues. He's titled his presentation: "I love my neighbors, so, why do they hate me??" (An informative talk about antennas and their supporting structures)

Don't forget about our November Meeting's "Home Brew Contest". We have categories in Kits, Antennas, Novice, and Advanced. If you're planning on making some kind of gizmo or doom-a-fla-chi, this is the time to put it together!

Election of Club officers is coming up in just a couple months and the future of our Club depends on YOU! If you've thought about being a part of our Club's Leadership team, the time is drawing near for you to throw your hat in the ring. If you are interested in running for an office, you can contact the Nominations Chair to volunteer. The

election process is explained more fully in our Bylaws, which are posted on our website.

"Ham of the Year" nominations are due at the close of the November meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, you must write a short paragraph about who you are nominating and why you think that person should be "HAM of the Year". All nomination write-ups must be turned in to our Club President by the close of the November Meeting. If after the close of the November General Meeting, the supporting text is not submitted, that candidate will be voided. The "2009 HAM of the Year" will be announced at our Christmas Party, which will be at the "HomeTown Buffet" at about the 300 block of West Main Street in El Cajon on December 15th. Dinner will start around 5:30 or 6:00pm and then presentations and drawings will begin. We're generally out of the restaurant by 9:00pm.

Well, I think I've covered everything. If you're available to help us out with the upcoming events I've listed here, we can sure use your help!

Don't forget about our Picnic on September 12th

73, and I'll see you at the meeting, or hopefully before at, maybe, an antenna party??

Steve KO4QT



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Some Field Day Photos



What is HAM Radio?

By: KI6UPY, Joseph

Intro and how to get a license

HAM or Amateur Radio is a fun way of communicating widely used around the globe. To be a HAM you must study for and pass a test made up of 35 multiple choice questions randomly chosen from a list of 391 questions. At most 9 questions can be answered incorrectly to pass. There are different levels of being a HAM. Technician (first question pool), General (second question pool) and Extra (third question pool of 50 chosen for the test). The level determines the operating privileges for the licensee.

Bands

The operating privileges are also which “bands” operators can use. Band names consist of 2-meters, 70-centimeters, 10-meters, 80-meters and other select measurements. The length of the band is how far the radio waves jump before bouncing again (see figure 2). The most widely used and known is the 2-meter band.

Call Signs

When licensed, a HAM receives a call sign chosen sequentially with certain other traits. The format can be 2-by-3, 2-by-1, or 1-by-2. a 2-by-3 is most commonly the first assigned format. a 2-by-3 would look like this, KI6UPY. The ‘by’ is the numeral. The numbers in the format name resemble letters. The first letter of a call sign can either be A,K,N, or W, the second (if letter) can be any letter of the alphabet chosen sequentially. The numeral is dependant on the area code of the operator, (see figure 3). The Final part of the call sign is called the suffix and consists of the letters after the numeral, assigned sequentially. Breakdown KI6UPY. K(first letter) I(sequential letter) 6(area code) UPY(Suffix). One way of finding call signs and names is through qrz.com.

Antennas

The bigger the antenna, the further your transmission will travel. Different types of antennas consist of Directional, Dipole, J-Pole, and other designs. The antenna matters. Many HTs (handheld radios) come with a ‘rubber ducky’ a stubby, rubber antenna with a low rating. this can be replaced in many cases. See figure 4.

Wattage and output power

The higher the output power, measured in watts, the farther the signal will travel. Most HT’s will have a maximum of 5 watts output. Mobile (vehicular) station

will have near 45 watts output. Wattage and SWR, the gain or Standing Wave Ratio of the antenna, are sometimes measured on a device such as the one in figure 5. This is placed in line with the antenna and station.

Nets

A net or network is an over the air ‘meeting’ where there is a net control and the net members. They are scheduled and organized events.

Clubs

There are also active clubs operators can join. These clubs are normally named by area, for example, The El Cajon Amateur Radio Club. Clubs will often host club nets and other events. Clubs can apply for club call signs that all members are free to use in events. Clubs are the best way to get and stay involved with HAM radio and have support and someone to learn from. The above named club is one great example of a good club. They have nets almost every day of the week, meeting, picnics, and good people. They can be found at www.wa6bgs.org.

Starting points

The best way to start using your license is simply by buying a handheld radio and a fractional wavelength mag-mount antenna (see figure 8). With it you can easily place it on the roof of a car and join in on nets almost every night of the week. The next step up is a mobile station (see figure 6). You can use a simple mag-mount antenna but the most commonly used with a mobile is an antenna that retracts down approximately 1 foot (see figure 9). The next step is a base station in the comfort of your own home (see figure 7). This is best used with an antenna in figure 10.



Figure 1.

There is no age requirement to be a
HAM Radio Operator

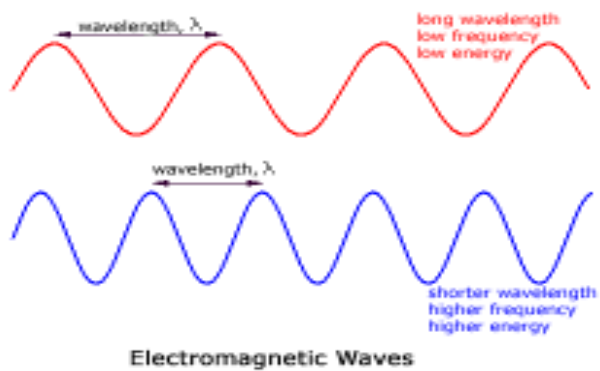


Figure 2. Radio Waves may look like this.



Figure 3. Area # Map



Figure 4 & 4 1/2

No rubber ducky and antennae.



Figure 5.

Wattage/SWR Meter



Figure 6. Mobile set example



Figure 7. Base station example



Figure 8. Mag-mount and HT.



Figure 9. Car mounted antenna.



Figure 10. Antenna

2010 ARCEC Annual Membership Drive

September 1, 2009 to December 1, 2009

The 2010 ARCEC Annual Membership Drive will begin September 1, 2009 and will end on December 1, 2009. All ARCEC Membership Renewals for 2010 are due December 31, 2009. Dues are \$18.00 for an individual membership and \$30.00 for a family membership and can be brought to a meeting or mailed to the club at ARCEC, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022. For those of you who recently joined the ARCEC, your Membership Dues at the time you joined were already prorated so that you paid through December 31, 2009. So you will need to complete a Renewal Application and pay dues for 2010 as a Renewing Member.

The Renewal Application is located on page 5 of this Counterpoise and can also be downloaded and printed from the ARCEC Website. All Renewing Club Members must complete and turn in an ARCEC Application at the time dues are paid. The next Club Roster will go out after the February 2010 Meeting, and anyone who has not renewed as of the February 2010 meeting will not be included on that roster. Also, if anyone does not wish to be published on the Club Roster, please be sure to indicate that on the application. Anyone who does not answer the question on the application regarding being published on the Club Roster will not be published on the Club Roster. At the Annual Christmas Party, we will have an Early Bird Drawing for those who renew prior to December 1, 2009. If you mail your Renewal Application and Dues, it must be postmarked on or before December 1, 2009 in order for you to be eligible for the Early Bird Drawing.

As the ARCEC is "Radio Active", the Board would appreciate everyone renewing as soon as possible so that the 2010 ARCEC Budget can be done timely.

ARCEC Past Presidents

1960	Eddie Quinn	WA6BGS
1961	Eddie Quinn	WA6BGS
1962	Bruce Williams	WA6TUC
1963	Tony Boegeman	WA6ZMZ
1964	Bob Ruby	WA6ZAC
1965	Seth Collier	WA6CDD
1966	Lew Wisler	WA6BUT
1967	Tom Hodgson	W6TAT
1968	Don Smith	WB6SEZ
1969	John E. Scott	W6TTO
1970	Bob Smith	WB6ODR
1971	Bob Smith	WB6ODR
1972	Gary Clements	WA6HGU
1973	Joe Calvin	WB6LBM
1974	Chuck Miller	WB6UKU
1974	Padre Bible	WA6BDW
1975	Padre Bible	WA6BDW
1976	Robert Wilson	WA6RBP
1977	Norene Ross	WA6WWP
1978	Don Grant	WB6DPO
1979	Don Grant	WB6DPO
1980	Pat Bunsold	WA6MHZ
1981	Jim Quinn	AD6Q
1982	Dick Laffler	WA6COE
1983	Pat Mathewson	WB6USL
1984	John Roessler	KB6WB
1985	Oscar Quintanilla	KF6YB
1986	Roger Peck	N6CQW
1987	Rick Risley	WU6K
1988	Rick Risley	WU6K
1989	Mike Garrison	KG6UP
1990	Charles Roy	WS6F
1991	Al Gentz	KA6RLX
1992	Al Gentz	KA6RLX
1993	Jason Lansky	NF6E
1994	Al Gentz	KA6RLX
1995	Al Gentz	KA6RLX
1996	Tuck Miller	KC6ZEC
1997	Tuck Miller	KC6ZEC
1998	John Cordle	KF6XY
1999	Duncan Campbell	KF6TLA
2000	Tuck Miller	NZ6T
2001	Tuck Miller	NZ6T
2002	Mike Maston	N6OPH
2003	Pat Bunsold	WA6MHZ
2004	Stogie Panger	KG6JCW
2005	Stogie Panger	KG6JCW
2006	Paul Rios	KC6QLS
2007	Paul Rios	KC6QLS
2008	Paul Rios	KC6QLS
2009	Paul Rios	KC6QLS

Chet Smith K6VM SK



Chet Smith passed away after being ill for over a year. Chet was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919 and was always interested in electronics. He built a crystal set and received his Amateur call, W9TRC at the age of 13. He joined the Naval Communications Reserve in

1937. In 1940, he became active United States Navy as a seaman; his electronics skills served him well. He went to Navy "A" and "B" schools and became a radio operator. He was at his typewriter copying naval communications on the USS GRANT on December 7, 1941 when the message came: *"This is no drill—Japan has bombed Pearl Harbor."* The ship turned around and headed for Pearl to pick up casualties.

By the time the Japanese were invading the Aleutian Islands, after the American forces had taken the Island of Kiska, Alaska, Chet (by this time a First Class Petty Officer), was selected to go ashore and collect Japanese electronics radar equipment. He brought back the first boatload of electronics gear for delivery to electronic laboratories in Seattle where it was analyzed. When the war came to a close Chet had advanced to Chief Petty Officer and went to various Navy schools for additional training.

In 1964, Chet made the rank of Lieutenant Commander and was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Weapons, Washington, D.C. as Administrator for Electronic Programs. He also was awarded a Presidential Citation. He moved into an apartment in Arlington, VA. It was there he met his neighbor Bea "His wife to be." A few days earlier he was playing his HIFI full blast and he apologized, and they soon became best friends. He learned that she worked for the Navy too—as Technical Editor for the Office of Naval Research.

In 1966, Chet left for Vietnam, where he was aviation officer in Project Jenny, a naval airborne television program. He was there during the Tet offensive and was promoted to Navy

Commander. All this time, he kept in touch with Bea through tapes and letters. When he returned from Vietnam in 1968, they were married.

In 1970, after 31 years of active service, Chet retired from the Navy. He said he and his wife "took a chance and swung the compass." The needle pointed to El Cajon, California, where they both enjoyed the sun, the diversity, and the life that Chet believed is a "perfect paradise."

As a Ham, Chet kept his station in an attempt to provide the "camaraderie and warmth" that communication gives to people everywhere. While he was in the Navy, Chet helped keep morale high for sailors, soldiers, and civilians by enabling them to contact family and friends—to deal with business, or just let their loved ones know they were OK. During his tour in Morocco, there were several earthquakes, and Chet's radio station helped support disaster relief efforts and save lives. He was able to supply similar assistance while in Kansas City throughout a tornado. All in all, to people everywhere, the comfort provided by radio communication is nothing short of gratifying. Chet always encouraged the current and next generations to get involved in Ham Radio. He said, "It is not just a hobby that teaches basic engineering and emission, but it brings people together. It brings students together with seniors and Hams into the classroom. It's a wonderful welding agent." With such words, how could anyone refuse the temptation?

Chet will be missed very much, but never forgotten. He has done so much for mankind and the Amateur Radio Community it would take a book to tell the whole story. So with great sadness I say 73 to my friend Chet, K6VM.

Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022



Issue Date 9/2009



**For Ham Radio
Classes
EXTRA License Starts
Sept. 8th 2009**

**Please Contact:
Mike Maston
N6OPH
(619) 296-9067**

**Please Visit Our Website at
www.WA6BGS.org**



VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)